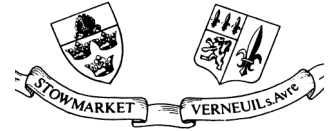


bonjour!



newsletter of the stowmarket twinning association

september 2018

by dennis morley

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intro

Welcome to the 2018 edition of the Stowmarket Twinning Association newsletter.

Well, what a summer! The weather's been absolutely scorchio, the World Cup ... do we want to talk about football?... no? what about Brexit then?

It seems a while ago now, but there was the Easter trip to Verneuil, then we had an AGM, and unfortunately, a few events that didn't take place. Nevertheless, there is excitement in the air, as we prepare for the biggest Twinning Extravaganza ever.

We are also planning some local, fund-raising events prior to the Easter visit, and would like a special effort from you all (and your friends) to support them



le trip

There's probably a French expression for "I can't believe we're getting up this early—it's still dark", but it was such a "*matinée*" not many months ago when we dragged ourselves and our carefully measured luggage out of the house and into the mini-bus - it was Good Friday and pilgrimage time!

With military timing we traversed the dark streets of Stowmarket collecting the "*passagers*" and in no time we were *en route* and cruising towards *le tunnel*.

Thanks to our highly efficient driver/navigator teams and their "le mans style" change-overs, by late afternoon we were pulling up in front of the reception venue, and then it was "*ca va*" and "*vin rouge*" all round, followed by a quiet evening with our hosts.

Saturday in Verneuil is market day and for a small town, the market is surprisingly comprehensive, with interesting foods and other temptations.

We only had time for a quick lap of the stalls, as we had to be at the *mairie* for the official welcoming and exchange of speeches, which were eloquently delivered by the respective mayors.

This was followed by a photo opportunity and we all jostled for position on the *mairie* steps and smiled into the camera—well those who could hear the frustrated cries of "cheese" from the photographer—have a look at the Gallery and see for yourself.

We were now into the programme proper, which then took us to a nearby needle factory, a most interesting and unusual outing.

Easter Sunday started with cheese, rather than the traditional chocolate, with a visit to the *fromagerie* at Livarot.

As with most tours, the exit is usually via the Shop. Despite protests from some of the mini-bus passengers, copious volumes of er... quite smelly cheese were smuggled into rucksacks for later consumption.

We were then whisked off to Vendeuve, where a beautiful chateau suddenly appeared from nowhere, and we were led into a glorious dining room and served lunch. Not surprisingly the chateau was surrounded by gardens, which needed investigating and photographing.

Sunday afternoon wouldn't be complete without a cuppa, and a splinter group met up in a charming café for a bit of (mainly French) conversation.

Monday was a free-day, and we were entertained at the discretion of our hosts. Some chilled, whilst others hit the road to explore local places of interest.

Following an early Tuesday morning breakfast, it was time to prepare the *pique-nique* and get back to the pick-up point, where the mini-bus, reassuringly pointing in the right direction, awaited us for the return.

Saying "*au revoir*" French style is almost an event in itself, and quite emotionally challenging—such is the friendship that exists. It was a great trip and we look forward to welcoming our French friends to celebrate the 40th anniversary next Easter.

It was obvious that a considerable amount of effort had gone into making both our daily excursions and our mini-bus trip successful and we are grateful to our hosts for making the stay memorable.

Thanks especially to Barry, Heather, Jon and Linda for getting us there and back unscathed - apart from the smelly cheese, that is!

our agm - marilyn speaks ...

I felt very happy to be elected once again as your chairman for the year leading up to the 40th year anniversary of twinning with our French friends from Verneuil-Sur-Avre. This a great achievement and I'm sure if our founder members were with us they would be very proud.

This year, Heather, who has been our secretary for many years stood down and it was decided to split the job, so Jonathen Pattle took on the role as minutes secretary and Dennis Morley will do correspondence and I will do whatever is needed. Our thanks go to Heather who did an excellent job and a hard act to follow.

Jan Rooks has taken on the job as treasurer for another year, and we are very grateful for that.

Unfortunately, numbers attending the AGM were very low, in fact apart from Robin Rooks and a

new member, it was just committee. We had hoped that members would come along with fund raising ideas as we need to finance what we hope will be a big celebration next Easter. Maybe we have to put it down to England playing in the World Cup that evening.

We are now organizing fund raising events for the year so please try and support them. Also ideas are being thrown into the pot on how we celebrate next year. What we do know is that there will be a celebration dinner on the evening of Easter Saturday but if you have any ideas please let us know.

Hoping to meet up with you all soon.

Marilyn Finbow - Chairman

just saying

As is often the case with small organisations like ours, it is a small number of people who do nearly all the work. They do it because they want their cause to succeed and they are driven by their own enthusiasm. Their reward comes when the organised events are successful and people have enjoyed themselves, so it is up to everyone to be supportive so we can soon be thinking about organising the 50th Anniversary - that'll be a home match as well !

when it's spring again

Keith Scarf has offered to plant up people's hanging baskets, of any size. This would take place in May and all proceeds would go into the Twinning pot.

If you are interested please let him know before April.
sarahscarff@tiscali.co.uk

Here are some sample pics



murder in stowmarket

Outside it was a cold February night, but inside, the temperature was rising as the murderer was gradually being forced into a corner (*eerie suspense music is heard over creaking floorboards ...*)

Our Murder Mystery event was attended by over 30 people and was a great success and is to be repeated (with a different victim) early next year. The murder event was "twinned" with an evening meal, prepared by ourselves in the kitchen (Scout's Hut).

The actors were dressed consistent with their title/role in the play and took great pleasure in over-acting their part. This gave rise to funny, if not hilarious, exchanges - oh no it didn't ... oh yes it

You can see the dodgy looking characters in the Gallery. Don't miss the next one on January 26, 2019 - we will email a reminder with more details nearer the time.

future events

november 18	safari lunch	This is where we stalk the streets of Stowmarket in small packs and call in at pre-arranged addresses and get fed. Once we have eaten all the food, we move on to devour the next course somewhere else. This is really true, honest!
january 26 - 2019	murder mystery	No experience needed! We get dressed up and try to look innocent and incriminate our "once friends" - well somebody did it! Needless to say we have 3-course nourishment to help withstand the ordeal.
jan or feb 2019	Amélie film @ the regal	french film with english subtitles
probably march 2019	soup and pudding night	Well, guess what we do here...!
definitely easter 2019	40th anniversary celebrations	4-5 days of wild festivities to celebrate our friendship with <i>nos amis</i> from Verneuil

watch out for emails giving more details of these events

gallery

Murder Mystery: You would be unwise to turn your back on any of these dodgy looking characters.



Verneuil Trip - Easter 2018

M. le maire, Yves-Marie Rivemale (3rd from right) and David Muller in the Mairie at speech time.



On the town hall steps ...

gallery (contd.)



Double Take: Livarot

Fort Knox

Chateau de Vendevre



le team

I nearly said “committee”, but we are much too dynamic for that! Anyway, call us what you will, this is how we line up ...

<p>Marilyn Finbow Jon Pattle Jan Rooks Sue Smith Jon Pattle Dennis Morley</p>	<p>Chairperson Vice Chairperson Treasurer Membership Secretary Minutes Secretary Bonjour Secretary</p>
<p>Heather Salmon Eve Paton Paul Ekpenyong Linda Baxter Miles Row</p>	

... all good things come to an end

